

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A discharge lamp starter comprising:

a discharge lamp that is lit at a luminance corresponding to power supplied;

5 a first switch and a second switch for turning on and off a power supply circuit; and

a discharge lamp start control unit for causing said discharge lamp to carry out daytime running light when said discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an on state only from said first switch, by supplying first power to said discharge lamp to start lighting, followed by supplying second power smaller than the first power to said discharge lamp to maintain lighting; and for causing said discharge lamp to carry out nighttime running light when said discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an on state only from said second switch, by supplying third power greater than the first power to said discharge lamp to start lighting, followed by supplying fourth power smaller than the third power and greater than the second power to said discharge lamp to maintain lighting.

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2. The discharge lamp starter according to claim 1, wherein said discharge lamp start control unit

causes said discharge lamp to make transition from the daytime running light to the nighttime running light when said discharge lamp start control unit receives the signal indicating the on state of said second switch during the daytime running light, by changing the power supplied to said discharge lamp from the second power to the fourth power; and

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30 causes said discharge lamp to make transition from the

nighttime running light to the daytime running light when said discharge lamp start control unit receives a signal indicating an off state of said second switch during the nighttime running light, by continuously reducing the power supplied to said
5 discharge lamp from the fourth power to the second power.

3. The discharge lamp starter according to claim 2, wherein said first switch is an ignition switch for starting a vehicle, and said second switch is a lighting switch for turning on
10 headlights consisting of the discharge lamp.